including Shri Vajpayee. I am telling you there are about 96,000 voters. This time, in the Parliamentary election, about 30,000 people have voted. There were some confusions at that time as to who was to certify that they were the migrants. We have also simplified the postal votes. There will be no question of any hurdle. We have simplified and everybody who wants to vote through postal ballots, will be accommodated. There will be no question of any problem even for those people.

SHRI SATYA PAL JAIN (Chandigarh) : Unless you give them a chance, how will they vote? For example, they are sitting in Delhi. They cannot go to Kashmir Valley to fill up the forms for the inclusion of their names. You have to do two things. You give them the option in Delhi. They may fill up the form and you get it verified. That is number one. The postal ballot will not serve the purpose. Why do you not create polling booths for them in Delhi or Calcutta or Chandigarh or wherever they are? Let them go and cast their votes Out of 93,000 only 23,000 cast their votes.

SHRI H.D DEVE GOWDA : Where to create the polling booths, how many polling booths, in which area whether it is outside India or outside Kashmir, those are left to the wisdom of the Election Commission. It is not for me to say Your point also will be well-taken. I am not going to argue It is left to the Election Commission so far as creating the polling booths outside Kashmir or inside Kashmir is concerned I cannot encroach upon the rights of the Election Commission I would only make a suggestion

SHRI SATYA PAL JAIN : We want their involvement in the election and also a free and fair election

MR. SPEAKER The Prime Minister has well-taken the point

SHRI BAJU BAN RIYAN (Tripura East) : You can conduct first round in Delhi, second round in Jamu and the third round postal ballot in Srinagar We would very much like to have the election on that method.

SHRI SATYA PAL JAIN (Chandigarh) That you know it much better You have gone by that method. Kindly take the House into confidence about your talks with the militants also You have said it on the floor of the House that you have talked to the militants Which were the militant groups that had talked to you? What were the talks? You have talked to the militants but you have not talked to the families affected by terrorists Coming from the Prime Minister that he had a meeting with them is a very serious matter Please take the House into confidence

SHRI H.D. DEVE GOWDA : I cannot talk to the individual families.

SHRI SATYA PAL JAIN (Chandigarh) : But you haved talked to the militants. What was the talk? What was the issue?

SHRI H.D DEVE GOWDA : At least you must appreciate that ater nine years, a Prime Minister has taken the courage to go there.

SHRI SATYA PAL JAIN (Chandigarh) : We appreciate that.

MR. SPEAKER : I think it is already 7.30 p.m. It is enough

SHRI SATYA PAL JAIN (Chandigarh) : You are talking about autonomy What do you mean by autonomy?

SHRI E AHAMED (Manjeri) : Whatever autonomy will be given, it will be within the framework of the Constitution

MR SPEAKER I do not think we have to go into all these details

SHRI H.D DEVE GOWDA I only assure this august House including our friends on the other side that I will try my best to have a free and fair election and I will take steps to hold the elections in the month of September if possible, or in the first week of October With this assurance, I request all of them to give their unanimous support for the Resolution

MR SPEAKER I shall now put the Resolution regarding approval of the continuance in force of the proclamation dated the 18th July, 1990 in respect of Jammu & Kashmir, issued under article 356 of the Constitution by the President, for a further period of six months with effect from the 18th July, 1996, moved by the Prime Minister, to the vote of the House

The question is

> "That this House approves the continuance in force of the proclamation dated the 18th July, 1990 in respect of Jammu & Kashmir, issued under article 356 of the Constitution by the President, for a further period of six months with effect from the 18th July, 1996"

The motion was adopted

19.35 hrs.

ANNOUNCEMENT RE: APPOINTMENT OF SECRETARY-GENERAL LOK SABHA

MR SPEAKER Hon Members I have one announcement to make Hon Members may be aware that in 1990 a Committee of eminent parliamentarians

had recommended that the post of Secretary-General, Lok Sabha is to be held by an officer of the rank and status of the Cabinet Secretary. This recommendation has been accepted by the Chair. This is also consistent with general international practice.

I am happy to announce that I have appointed Shri S. Gopalan, currently Secretary, Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, as the Secretary-General, Lok Sabha. He is the seniormost amongst the serving Secretaries to the Government of India. He has had 36 years of diversified and distinguished career. I have great pleasure in placing Shri S.Gopalan at your service.

I also place on record on my behalf and on behalf of the House, our deep appreciation of the services rendered by Shri S.N. Mishra, Additional Secretary, Lok Sabha Secretariat, who has been officiating as Secretary-General with effect from 1-1-1996. Now the House stands adjourned till 11 a.m. on July 15, 1996.

19.37 hrs.

The Lok Sabha then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock on Monday, July 15, 1996/Asadha 24, 1918 (Saka)